

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SS-15 EB-07 L-03

COME-00 H-01 SP-02 USIA-06 AID-05 NSC-05 EPG-02

TRSE-00 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 /105 W

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R 120730Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY SANA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1767

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USINT BAGHDAD

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANA 2631

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, PFOR, XF

SUBJECT: YARG REACTION TO BOYCOTT LEGISLATION

REF: STATE 146034

1. DURING JULY 11 MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER ABDALLAH
AL-ASNAJ I BRIEFED HIM ON RECENTLY PASSED US ANTI-BOYCOTT
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LEISLATION EMPHASIZING THAT INTENT OF LEGISLATION IS NOT
TO BRING ABOUT CONFRONTATION WITH ARAB STATES BUT RATHER
TO FIND A WAY TO ENABLE US FIRMS TO CONTINUE DOING BUSINESS
WITH COMPANIES IN ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD WHILE REMAINING
FAITHFUL TO US PRINCIPLES OF FAIR PLAY AND OPEN TRADE.
AFTER COVERING SUCH MATTERS AS POSITIVE CERTIFICATION
AND SECONDARY BOYCOTT, I ALSO POINTED OUT THAT HENCEFORTH

AMERICAN COMPANIES WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO RESPOND TO QUESTIONNAIRES PUT OUT BY THE ARAB BOYCOTT OFFICE. I CONCLUDED BY STRESSING HOPE THAT US AND YEMEN COULD WORK TOGETHER TO FIND WAYS BY WHICH AMERICAN COMPANIES COULD STILL DO BUSINESS IN YEMEN WITHOUT HAVING TO BREAK AMERICAN LAW IN THE PROCESS.

2. AL-ASNAJ REPLIED THAT HE WAS AWARE OF THE EFFORTS OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION TO AVOID A CONFRONTATION WITH THE ARAB STATES ON THE BOYCOTT ISSUE AND HE SAID THAT YEMEN ALSO WISHED TO AVOID THIS CONFRONTATION. HE POINTED OUT THAT YEMEN WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO DEAL WITH BOYCOTT QUESTIONS ON A CASE-BY CASE BASIS AND IN A PRAGMATIC AND REALISTIC MANNER KEEPING YEMEN'S INTERESTS ALWAYS IN MIND. YEMEN, HOWEVER, WOULD ALSO HAVE TO BE GUIDED BY POSITIONS OF MODERATE ARAB STATES LIKE EGYPT AND SAUDI ARABIA. HE CONCLUDED BY ASKING ME TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH HIM IN THE FUTURE, SHOULD ANY PROBLEM ON THE BOYCOTT ARISE.

3. COMMENT: AL-ASNAJ ACCURATELY SUMMARIZED YEMEN'S POSITION ON THE BOYCOTT. I WOULD EXPECT, THEREFORE, THAT BUSINESS WILL GO ON HERE AS USUAL IN SPITE OF THE NEW LEGISLATION WITH THE YEMENIS DOING PRETTY MUCH WHAT THEY WANT TO DO BUT ALWAYS LOOKING OVER THEIR SHOULDERS TO BE SURE THAT THEY ARE NOT OUT IN FRONT OF THEIR SAUDI

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AND EGYPTIAN BROTHERS.
SCOTES

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Message Attributes

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